

CAIN & ABEL
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1

EXT. RANCH - DAY

1

Rigid black mountains on the horizon are bisected by rolling hills speckled with dark and crooked oak.

The sharp land is gilded in soft golden grass.

With a sickle, CAIN, 29, sturdy and brutish, makes his way across the landscape.

Title Card:

CAIN & ABEL

2

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

2

In the minimal kitchen,

Cain hunches over a wooden table juicing a pile of oranges.

EVE, 47, was once beautiful, does dishes at the kitchen sink.

The steady clinking of dishes hum in harmony with Cain juicing. Until,

ABEL, 24, sculpted and picturesque, comes bounding in.

Cain's posture tightens.

ABEL

Morning, mother.

EVE

Good morning, Abel. Will you eat something?

Abel takes the pitcher of fresh juice from Cain. He puts it to his lips and swigs several slow gulps.

Juice spills from Abel's mouth and down his sturdy neck.

Cain steals a glance at Abel just as he wipes the spilled juice with the back of his hand.

Abel returns the glass to the table.

The place where Abel's lips touched the glass catches the light in a fantastical way.

Cain stares at this light.

Abel slips on his boots.

The screen door swings open and closed.

Cain looks to the door. Abel is gone.

Again there is peace.

Cain relaxes into his chair.

CAIN

For a Shepard he rarely sleeps with
the sheep.

EVE

You mind yours, now. How's the
harvest?

CAIN

It will be a good year for us.

EVE

Your father is proud.

CAIN

Of who?

(Beat.)

He's off to market today?

EVE

Yes.

CAIN

Well, better tend the fields.

Cain stands to go.

EVE

Fetch some water from the well on
your way in.

CAIN

Yes, mother.

Cain exits.

3 EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

3

Clearly lost in thought,

Cain carts a wheelbarrow, overfilled with hay bails, toward
the farmhouse.

The precarious stack of hay bounces against the uneven earth.

Cain struggles to maintain balance, but

Hitting a particularly rough patch, loses control of the wheelbarrow, which topples over.

Hay bails tumble across the road.

Methodically, Cain gathers the bails and re-stacks them.

It is hard work, the burden of which quiets Cain's thoughts. Through his sweat and struggle, Cain does not falter.

Cain does not stop to rest.

4 INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DUSK

4

The sun has just gone down.

The honeyed dusk settles over everything.

Cain enters through the screen door. He sets a heavy bucket of water on the floor.

Cain removes his work boots and leaves them on the mat.

Cain pauses; he looks longingly upon Abel's boots.

Delicately, Cain slips on Abel's boots.

Cain disappears quietly into the darkness.

5 INT. BEDROOM - LATER NIGHT

5

Cain stands rigid above Abel as he sleeps.

Cain's expression is imperceptible in the darkness.

Abel looks soft and pretty on his simple twin bed.

The steady rising and falling of Abel's chest is a reminder of life, strength, and virility.

6 INT/EXT. BARN - DAY

6

Cain's wheelbarrow sits in front of the barn, still stacked with hay. From within the barn comes a rustling sound.

Cain appears from within.

He wrestles hay from the wheelbarrow and into the barn.

Cain struggles to stack the heavy bails.

In his struggle, Cain grows aggravated.

He looks around for help but there is none.

Cain grows careless with the work.

In a frantic moment, Cain catches his arm on the barn door.

O/S Cain yells out in pain.

Cain struggles to stand.

He looks to his sleeve.

Blood drips down his forearm.

7 EXT. YARD - DAY/ INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

7

Cain crosses the yard with his arm held in front of him.

He stops at a water troth beside the house.

Aggravated by his injury, Cain washes his hand briskly, chopping at the water with his fists, until,

Cain notices Adam and Eve discussing business through the window and observes:

Eve sits at the round kitchen table reading a neatly kept ledger. Using an abacus, she does arithmetic.

ADAM, 51, was once handsome, labors over a pot of beans boiling on the stove.

EVE

The price of wool has gone up again.

ADAM

That's good.

EVE

Indeed.

Cain turns to see Abel enter the yard.

A dead lamb is slung around his neck, a vision.

Abel glows with godly light.

ADAM

(v/o)

Perhaps this year we can afford to
buy more land.

EVE

(v/o)

Cain says the harvest will be good.

Abel nods to Cain as he passes.

ABEL

Brother.

Abel enters the house.

After a moment,

Cain follows.

8 INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS DAY

8

Abel lays the lamb on the table; its throat has been cut.

Adam looks to Abel, his teeth bared in a boyish grin.

EVE

What's this?

ABEL

Coyote got its leg.

Adam beams.

Cain watches from the door.

EVE

Off the table, take it out to
butcher.

ABEL

Yes, mother.

Abel leans down to his father.

ABEL (CONT'D)

A gift.

Adam rests his head against Abel's head.

Abel smiles,

snaps upright,

and swings the lamb over his shoulder.

Abel makes to exit.

At the door, Abel pauses before Cain.

ABEL (CONT'D)
Come help me, brother.

Cain looks to Abel, unsure of his intension. A brief moment before Abel exits. The door swings closed behind him.

Everything is quiet (only the beans hiss).

Cain clears his throat.

ADAM
What of it, son?

CAIN
I've cut and bailed the hay.

ADAM
Very well.

Cain nods, and then exits.

9 EXT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER DAY

9

It's getting late, but the sun has not yet set.

Abel kneels beside the dead lamb in a bed of hay.

Beside the lamb lays a cleaver and some butcher's twine.

Abel strokes the lamb's wool.

Cain is revealed standing behind Abel in the shadows.

Cain watches Abel with the lamb for some time, then kneels beside him.

Cain stokes the lamb with a less delicate hand.

Abel moves his hand over Cain's hand, acknowledging him.

Cain imagines Abel stoke his forearm.

The brothers sit with their hands on top of each other.

Cain looks to the softness of Abel's face.

Abel gazes upon the lamb.

Abel picks up the twine and begins to tie up the lamb.

Abel's forearm moves in a jagged horizontal motion.

The sound of friction as the lamb is strung up.

10 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

10

Crickets chirp into the night as pale moonlight fights its way through the soft linen drapes of the farmhouse.

In the distance, a lamb brays.

Abel lies quietly asleep in bed.

The sound of heavy breathing grows out of the silence.

Sharp fast gasps blossom into an orgasm.

Abel startles awake.

Cain's moan of pleasure distorts itself into choking sobs.

Cain is revealed, curled up naked on the wooden floor beside, Abel, unmoving, awake and wide-eyed.

11 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

11

Cain wakes up, still tangled in his sheet on the floor.

He sits up with a start, and realizes he is alone.

Alarmed, Cain gets dressed frantically.

A11 EXT. YARD - CONTINUOUS DAY

A11

Flustered, Cain spills from within the house and into the yard. From his vantage point he sees,

12 INT/EXT. BARN - CONTINUOUS DAY

12

Abel stands before the skinned lamb as it hangs by its feet.

After a moment,

Cain appears behind Abel.

With Abel's back to Cain, he butchers the lamb.

There is the sound flesh being pulled apart.

CAIN

Abel.

A look of disgust comes over Abel's face.

Abel turns to face Cain.

In Cain's fantasy,

The brother's eyes meet.

Abel smiles at Cain.

Cain takes in Abel's fantastical beauty.

ABEL

Come with me.

13 EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER DAY

13

Cain follows Abel into the shadowed depths of the forest.

Neither brother speaks, but the underbrush against their work boots slaps loudly.

Their movements are brisk with an undertone of violence.

Cain stares at Abel's back with an expression of stupid joy.

He lusts over Abel's body as it moves.

Abel stops abruptly as they come upon a meadow.

Cain stops, too.

14 EXT. MEADOW - CONTINUOUS DAY

14

Completely in Cain's Fantasy,

The meadow is sun-washed and overexposed: a dry patch of yellowed grass with pops of emerald oak and grey-brown wood.

Cain and Abel squint in the hot white light.

They stand at the edge of the meadow without speaking for a long time.

CAIN

Why have you brought me here?

ABEL
Remember this meadow?

Cain looks around.

CAIN
What of it?

ABEL
We had some good times here, did we not?

CAIN
We have no women with us now.

Cain stares at Abel in longing anticipation.

ABEL
You know what was my favorite part about bringing women to this meadow?

Abel steps closer still. He stands directly in front of Cain.

ABEL (CONT'D)
I would be between a woman's legs, and you would be between a woman's legs...

The semblance of a smile appears over Cain's face.

Abel leans in.

ABEL (CONT'D)
You know what was my favorite part?

Abel is so close, he is nearly touching Cain with his lips.

Cain's lips part, a welcoming gesture.

ABEL (CONT'D)
Watching you.

At the height of Cain's fantasy,

Time is suspended as the brothers stand face to face.

Abel is nearly touching Cain with his lips.

Cain's lips part, a welcoming gesture.

Abel's lips are fleshy and pink.

The stubble around his mouth glows golden in the sunlight.

Cain closes his eyes.

He leans in toward Abel to kiss him.

There is a sound of splintering contact.

Cain's fantasy is shattered.

In reality,

Abel punches Cain hard on the mouth.

Cain stumbles backward, stunned. As soon as Cain regains some consciousness, Abel punches him again, harder.

In an attempt to get away from the blows, Cain staggers backwards.

Abel approaches slow and steady, his pretty face turned ugly with malice.

Cain is bleeding. He turns to run, but Abel grabs him by the arm. Pulling him around, Abel slugs him again in the face.

Cain falls backwards and Abel jumps on top of him.

In the middle of the meadow the brothers wrestle.

Abel grabs Cain by the throat.

Abel is choking Cain with the intent to kill him.

ABEL (CONT'D)
Do you like my hands on your
throat?

Cain is struggling to breathe. Abel is relentless.

ABEL (CONT'D)
I am going to kill you.

There is terror in Cain's eyes.

ABEL (CONT'D)
You disgusting creature.

Cain is turning blue.

ABEL (CONT'D)
What did you think?

Cain is clawing at the ground around him in an attempt to get free. To breathe.

ABEL (CONT'D)
Did you think I'd let you have me?

As Cain's eyes flutter closed, everything goes black.
Cain's fingers graze a large rock. He stretches to reach it.
Abel's mouth is upturned in the semblance of a smile.
In one desperate swoop,
CAIN SMASHES THE ROCK AGAINST ABEL'S HEAD.

CUT TO:

15 BLACK. 15

The sound of gasping for air.

16 EXT. MEADOW - MOMENTS LATER DAY 16

Abel's dead body is sprawled out in the field.
The side of Abel's golden head is soaked in blood.
Cain sits beside him, watching his unmoving corpse.
Cain reaches out to Abel.
With his calloused hand,
Cain pushes the bloodied curls out of Abel's face.
Cain caresses Abel's temple,
His lips,
The underside of his jaw...
Cain kisses Abel's still mouth.
Cain sticks his tongue into Abel's mouth.
Cain sits up.
The black mark of God has appeared across his forehead--

FADE OUT; AND THEN,

CREDITS ROLL.